

May 14, 1975

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I move the adoption of the amendment. At a time like this it is difficult for the Chairman of the Revenue Committee to introduce amendments, particularly when it deals with money. Our Arbor Day Foundation is faced with a serious problem. We do have an option on this property. It is of extreme historical value as far as the J. Sterling Morton and Arbor Lodge is concerned. The Arbor Day Foundation is in the hopes of developing this into a research and resource center. The Porters are very anxious for the foundation to have it. At the moment it has been difficult for us to come by funds to acquire it. We did agree on a price with them. We did have it appraised and the appraisers came up with \$15,000 short of what our agreed purchase price was. The Porters were so anxious to let us have it that they finally agreed at the appraisers price. The intent is to keep this in its present form, continue with the orchard, to develop further plantings of various trees, shrubs and grasses so that it may be used as an educational part of Arbor Lodge and its surroundings. I was reluctant to do this. The Foundation Board asked if I wouldn't. It does put me, as the Chairman of the Revenue Committee trying to raise money, in a particular difficult time for the State of Nebraska to present an amendment like this. I agreed to do it. I am doing it now for the very purpose of laying a foundation for the future. I am still in hopes that before our option runs out that we may be able to come up with this money so that we can move ahead with the purchase of this property. Come January 1, and our option is still alive, you will find me back on this floor with another request to get this job done. With those statements ... it's the only way that I can do it, Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment real reluctantly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Carsten.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Mahoney, who doesn't seem to be here. Oh there he is. (Read amendment found on page 1809 in Journal).

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, I offered this amendment yesterday afternoon as it was late in the hour and people were leaving here. We didn't have the full compliment. I have one more remark. I'll only take one minute on this by saying that the particular school that we're talking about, the donor in the area that's involved, goes back some six years ago. The old Omaha Athletic Club is a site that had been looked upon at one time as a continuing education school for the downtown area. It then went ... other buildings that we had that were sites as recent as two years ago. The City National Bank Building, in which the state now has offices. It was thought that two or three floors there would be possible. Again that particular site did not meet the type of rooms and accommodations that would be possible for this downtown schooling. I ask the Legislature to look upon this amendment to the bill, and to, in good faith, show a commitment that we can receive the \$5 million that will be there as available for our school of continuing education which would take in all aspects of life and all groups that are within a large five county area.